

Application No. 10/649,888  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the region rearrangement means rearranges the plurality of regions on the display screen in accordance with at least one feature parameter thereof that is at least one of the attributes of the plurality of regions (see, for example, Figs. 10 and 17), and whereby the region selection means selects a region by sequentially comparing a coordinate that is input via the coordinate input means with at least one of the regions rearranged by the region rearrangement means, when the regions displayed by the display screen lie on top of one another (see, for example, Figs. 9, 12 and 13).

Similarly, method claim 11 and computer program (storage medium) claim 12 have been amended to clarify the features of the

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present invention whereby the plurality of regions on the display screen are rearranged in accordance with at least one feature parameter thereof that is at least one of the attributes of the plurality of regions (see, for example, Figs. 10 and 17), and whereby a region is selected by sequentially comparing an input coordinate with at least of the rearranged regions, when the regions displayed by the display screen lie on top of one another (see, for example, Figs. 9, 12 and 13).

In addition, claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 5 so as not to be a duplicate of claim 4, thereby correcting the informality pointed out by the Examiner.

Still further, claims 1-12 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner in claims 1 and 3 have been corrected.

Yet still further, new claims 13-15 have been added depending from claims 1, 11 and 12, respectively, to positively recite the feature of the present invention whereby the input coordinate is sequentially compared with each of the regions until one of the regions is determined to be selected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,469,540 ("Powers et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 and corresponding method and computer program claims 11 and 12, coordinate information is input to a display screen, on which a plurality of regions are displayed in accordance with attributes of the plurality of regions stored in a region table. The plurality of regions on the display screen are rearranged in accordance with at least one feature parameter thereof that is at least one of the attributes of the plurality of regions. And, to select a region, an input coordinate is compared with at least one of the rearranged regions, when the regions displayed by the display screen lie on top of one another.

With this structure, a plurality of layered regions, which are rearranged in accordance with at least one feature parameter, are compared with a position of a cursor on a screen to select one of the regions.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Powers et al merely discloses a method of controlling display windows in which

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a presentation window 310 remains "floating" above other windows and is active regardless of the window active below. Thus, according to Powers et al, both the presentation window and a window being acted upon are simultaneously active.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Powers et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the features of the claimed present invention whereby regions are automatically arranged in accordance with a feature parameter and a region is selected by comparing an input coordinate with at least one of the rearranged regions, when the regions displayed by the display screen lie on top of one another, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 11 and 12.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 11 and 12, as well as claims 2-10 and 13-15 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Powers et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

\* \* \* \* \*

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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